

Lean Manufacturing and Its Link to Corporate Sustainable Development: A Research Agenda

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Abstract: Lean is a philosophy originally intended to eradicate manufacturing wastes on the factory floor; however, it is believed by many authors to address the more important issue of sustainability. The aim of this study is to present a research framework to ascertain the relationship between lean manufacturing practices and corporate sustainable development.

The empirical data will be obtained from a survey that will be conducted on Philippine manufacturing firms. Lean implementation is to be measured using a 48-item questionnaire where the practices are divided into six categories: process and equipment, manufacturing planning and control, human resources, product design, supplier relationships, and customer relationships. On the other hand, corporate sustainable development will be assessed using a 27-item scale that covers economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental integrity dimensions.

Results of the proposed study will benefit companies implementing lean or those which are planning to do so since it will identify LM practices that are positively related to corporate sustainable development.

Keywords: *Lean Manufacturing, Lean Practices, Operational Benefits, Corporate Sustainable Development*